

## *Meeting Minutes*

### *Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council*

*Feb. 1, 2013*

*Reno, Nevada*

#### **I. RAC Attendance and Welcome**

9:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 1, 2013 – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Craig Young with the following members of the RAC present:

##### **SIERRA FRONT–NORTHWESTERN GREAT BASIN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<b><i>COUNCIL MEMBER</i></b>	<b><i>RESOURCE/EXPERTISE</i></b>	<b><i>02/01/2013</i></b>
<i>Andy Hart</i>	Recreation	X
<i>Craig Young (Vice Chair)</i>	Archaeology	X
<i>Tim Dufurrena</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Verl Ray Hendrix</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Kyle Snyder</i>	Energy/Minerals	X
<i>Deborah Lassiter</i>	Energy/Minerals	X
<i>Mathew Gingerich</i>	Transportation/ROWs	X
<i>David Von Seggern</i>	Environmental	X
<i>William Molini</i>	Wildlife	X
<i>Mark Freese</i>	State Agency	X
<i>Charles Matton</i>	Wild Horses & Burros	X
<i>Jim Billingsley</i>	Elected Official	
<i>Ron Cerri</i>	Public-At-Large	X
<i>Douglas Hogan</i>	Academic	X
<i>VACANT</i>	Native Americans	

**BLM Staff Present:** Bryant Smith, Gene Seidlitz, Colleen Sievers, Gary Johnson, Mark Turney, Lisa Ross

**Public Present:** Michael Meyers, Karen Dalet, Carla Bowers

## **II. Summary of Motions Other Than to Approve Minutes**

- Craig Young motioned for the approval of Harvey Lacey as replacement for Will Peterson on the NCA RAC subgroup. Willie Molini seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.
- Willie Molini made the motion that Mark Freese drafts a letter regarding restoration timing constraints and to encourage the BLM to expedite the process, so the treatments are applied during the critical window of opportunity. Seconded by Tim Dufurrena. Voted on and passed.

## **III. Welcome & Introductions**

Craig Young welcomed all and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

## **IV. Election of RAC Officers for 2013**

Willie Molini nominated Debbie Lassiter as Chairwoman. Seconded by Chuck Matton. Voted on and passed.

Mark Freese nominated Dr. Craig Young as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Matt Gingerich. Voted on and passed.

## **V. Approval of Minutes from the Sept. meeting in Winnemecca**

Mark Freese made the motion to approve the minutes. Willie Molini seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Voted on and approved.

## **VI. RAC Subcommittee Reports**

- **NCA RAC Subgroup – Craig Young**
  - Announced that the last meeting was Will Petersen's last as a member of the group. Announced that Petersen had brought forth a possible replacement for him on the Subcommittee. Brought forth the name of Harvey Lacey from Black Rock City as a Recreation Representative (see motion above).
  - Young announced election of Dave Cooper as Chair of the Subgroup.

- Young spoke of the presentation commenting on the high turn-over within BLM and that this was concerning to the subgroup.
- Gene Seidlitz spoke about recent/upcoming hires and vacancies within BLM Winnemucca and more specifically Black Rock.
- Young spoke about Soldier Meadows Ranch letters being written to the owners regarding public interest and health of public lands.
- Big topics/concerns: On-going drought and surrounding plans, Humboldt County and DeLong Ranch road petition, RMP, membership lacking in key areas.
- Seidlitz announces that the Winnemucca District RMP is to be released in late spring or early summer and hopefully will be signed next year.
- Seidlitz spoke about the Soldier Meadows Letter. The Soldier Meadows Grazing permit is in the hands of someone else now. WDO staff is initiating the EA for the reissuance of that grazing permit. This group will be involved in providing comments on the Preliminary EA for grazing management.

#### **WH&B – Chuck Matton**

- No Report as there is no standing subcommittee.
  - Matton brought forth an idea on Wild Horse and Burro plan. RAC agreed it was too rough an idea to discuss in its current form but would revisit the idea once Matton had prepared a more detailed plan and submitted it to the RAC.
  - Lassiter asked if there is any interest in a Wild Horse and Burro subcommittee.
    - Group agreed there was no need for a WH&B subgroup at this time.
- **Grazing**
  - Lassiter asked if there was a need for a RAC level subgroup.
  - Tim Dufurrena asked for BLM guidance to set up a subgroup and asked for guidance about what the subgroup could and couldn't do.
  - Seidlitz stated and his staff would be willing to assist if there were clearly defined "end result" established for the subgroup on grazing.
  - Freese proposed to have a Grazing sub-committee meeting one month in advance of next general RAC meeting.
  - Freese will fill out purpose and need statement for the subgroup.
  - Lassiter agreed to provide it to DFO once completed.
  - Ron Cerri expressed interest in being a member of the Grazing sub-committee.

- Seidlitz raised the issue that Joe Tague the state-wide branch chief and the state range program lead for grazing should be included in this group when we are talking about grazing. Seidlitz also said that he and his staff would be available to help guide this group.
- Freese volunteered to complete the sub-group check-off list that establishes the subgroups purpose.

## **State Subcommittee Report**

### ➤ **Sage-grouse** – Willie Molini

- Asks about the possibility of a subgroup making recommendations to the statewide-sage grouse plan.
- Freese asks Seidlitz if there is value in the RAC or a subgroup making comments on the plan versus individuals doing so. Seidlitz agrees that there is great value based on the fact that the charters for the groups are signed by the Secretary of the Interior and not local entities.
- Molini asks to move forward with the bi-state subgroup on sage grouse. Willie Molini, Debbie Lassiter, Matthew Gingerich, Kyle Snyder, David Van Seggern and Tim Dufurrena agree to work on bi-state subgroup.
- Lassiter will help Molina with the worksheet outlining specific goals of the bi-state subgroup on sage grouse.

## **XIII. District Manager Reports**

### **Carson City** – Bryant Smith – See DM Report

- Smith spoke about the upcoming RMP. We need your input and everyone's perspectives.
- Freese asks Smith where does the money go for Land Sales?
  - Some to the Treasury, some may come back to us. There are many answers to that question.

### **Winnemucca** – Gene Seidlitz – See DM Report

- Seidlitz agreed to update the RAC with more information on a monthly basis about significant events in the Winnemucca District.
- Molini requests more information from Seidlitz about working with NDOW about the trailing of domestic sheep near big horn sheep habitat.

- Seidlitz: Request from the Gerlach area (Surprise Valley) to trail livestock (sheep and cows) from California to the Blue Wing area. Met with the permittees to get more information on when, where, what and how many.
- Molini asks about the Golden Eagle take permit. Is this new?
  - Seidlitz: Yes, it is a new permit/process. Both proponents, Hycroft and Newmont, are writing conservation plans and are working with BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a state-wide issue.
- Cerri requests that the Buckskin Fire be changed from “human” caused to naturally caused. A microburst caused power lines to fall and spark, creating the fire. Ranchers are not allowed to get insurance payments for fires caused by humans.
- Seidlitz: Agreed to follow up with fire management officer and will report back to Cerri once he has answers.
- Freese would like to draft a letter regarding restoration timing constraints and to encourage the BLM to streamline the process so treatments are applied during the critical window of opportunity (see motion above).

**XIV. Carson City RMP Update** – Colleen Sievers, CDDO --See hand out.

**XVIII. 2013 RAC Issue/Agenda Priority Setting & Scheduling of Meetings**

- Group agreed to meet on April 4–5 in Carson City and August 8-9 in Winnemucca.
  - Carson City agenda:
    - Two hour meeting in CCDO
    - Visit to a LEK
  - Winnemucca
    - Two hour meeting in WDO
    - Overnight in the Pine Forest
    - Revisit 2012 fire areas
    - Wilderness Study Area’s

**ADJOURNMENT** – 11:45 a.m. to reconvene with two other RACS